

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

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----- 046668

P R 040839Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

INFO SECDEF

CNO

USCINCSO

CHUSNAVMIS BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CO, US

SUBJECT:SHIPS FOR COLOMBIA

REF: A. BOGOTA 2457; B. BOGOTA 3542

1. EMBASSY MAY INFORM GOC SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE:

USG HAS REVIEWED CURRENT AND PREVIOUS COLOMBIAN NAVY
REQUESTS FOR SHIPS/CRAFT AND HAS DETERMINED THAT, SUBJECT
TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, FOLLOWING VESSELS COULD BE
MADE AVAILABLE IN FY 1977 AND FY 1978 ON "AS IS, WHERE IS"

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BASIS AND SHOULD SATISFY THE STATED REQUIREMENTS.

2. ALL SHIP TRANSFERS WOULD BE SALES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT AND WOULD REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, EITHER ENABLING LEGISLATION OR 30-DAY NOTIFICATION, AS INDICATED BELOW:

----- APPROX. CONG.
----- FMS APPROVAL

QTY	ASST (CLASS)	MISSION	COST	REQUIRED
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2	PG'S (ASHEVILLE)	ANTI-SMUGGLING	6,000K EA	LEG
4-6	PTF'S	ANTI-SMUGGLING	10K EA	LEG

1	DD (GEARING)		185K	LEG
	(FRAM I LESS ASROC)			
1	ARB	TENDER/REPAIR	165K	LEG
1	ATF (APACHE)		165K	30-DAY
				OTIFICATION

THE PG'S WOULD HAVE CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENT, WHICH WE CONSIDER APPROPRIATE FOR THE MISSION OF ANTI-SMUGGLING. THE PTF'S WOULD COMPLEMENT THE PG'S AT CONSIDERABLY LESS ACQUISITION AND OPERATING COSTS. THE ARB HAS ALREADY BEEN INSPECTED BY THE COLOMBIAN NAVY AND COULD SERVE AS A REPAIR AND SUPPORT SHIP TO THE PG'S AND PTF'S. THE ATF WILL SATISFY THE OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR TOW CAPABILITY.

3. ALL TRANSFERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AS NOTED, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHEN THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION MIGHT BE PASSED. (FYI. WE HAVE RUN INTO CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY ON THE HILL IN OBTAINING CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION BECAUSE OF PRESSURES ON CONGRESS TO DEAL WITH HIGHER PRIORITY MATTERS. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO MOVE LEGISLATION ALREADY REQUESTED AND WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE COLOMBIAN "PACKAGE" WITH PENDING PROPOSALS. WE HOPE THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE ENACTED BEFORE END OF CY 1976, BUT CANNOT GIVE GOC SPECIFIC ASSURANCES ON THIS. END FYI).

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4. UPON GOC REQUEST, SEPARATE FMS CASES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE SUPPLY SUPPORT AND ANY REQUIRED SPECIAL TRAINING, E.G, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE DIESEL/GAS TURBINE PROP'LSION PLANT OF PG'S.

5. INSPECTION OF THE VARIOUS SHIPS/CRAFT COULD BE ARRANGED ON REQUEST AT A LATER DATE.

6. THE FOREGOING REPRESENTS THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS

TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FOLLOWING FACTORS: COLOMBIAN NAVY
STATED REQUIREMENTS; AVAILABILITIES FROM USN INVENTORY
WHAT APPEARS TO USG TO BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE FOR THE
COLOMBIANS TO MAINTAIN; WHAT COLOMBIAN NAVY CAN OPERATE
SATISFACTORILY IN TERMS OF NUMBERS AND CAPABILITIES
CRAFT; AND GOC ABILITY TO ASSUMEREPAymentOBLIGATIONS
OF ANY USG-GUARANTEED CREDIT SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH
PURCHASE. WE WOULD HOPE THE LONG STANDING CLOSE RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN OUR NAVIES AND OUR PROVEN SUPPLY SUPPORT
WOULD MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF
SIMILAR OFFERS MADE BY THIRD COUNTRIES. SISCO

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